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SELA-PETRA, THE ROCK, OF EDOM AND NABATENE¹

CHAPTER III

THE EXCAVATIONS²

(a) SITE AND STRATIFICATION

THE First Wall on the south of the city starts from the base of a tower under el Ḥabīs (*QDAP*, VII, Plan B and Pl. VIII, 2) and runs eastwards uphill, as indicated by a few stones and the agglomerate of the interior. At the top of the slope is a small tower or bastion and beyond it a rubbish glacis flowing southwards (*QDAP*, VII, Pl. IX, 1), composed of small stones and reddish sand strewn with pottery fragments, which was used as a cemetery in the Christian period. Many graves can be distinguished, some with cover stones, others exposed to view by scouring. All seem to have been rifled and are orientated east to west in some cases. Near el Ḥabīs the First Wall is three metres thick, and built of red and white sandstone blocks, 0.75 m. × 0.30 m. × 0.30 m., set regularly without mortar (*QDAP*, VII, Pl. XVII, 1). In places there is a later repair as some of the stones look like drums of columns of which the half has been hacked away on the side to form a fresh face.

Beyond the tower the Second Wall branches off and runs uphill (*QDAP*, VII, Pls. IX, 1 and XVII, 2), the First Wall continuing at a lower level, but soon becoming ruinous, largely reduced to a pile of stones. Between these walls, not far from their bifurcation, a cut 'F' in two levels was made in the hill-side at the foot of the Second wall on a face of 10 metres (Pls. XLIII and XLIV). The ground was covered with fragments of stone slabs that had formed the sides and covers of Christian graves, and at 0.50 m. some lamps of fourth-century A.D. type were found (29.740, 741).³ There were very few sherds till bed-rock was reached at 2.50 m., where at the bottom were found stamped amphora handles of the late third century B.C., and a Black-glaze Attic lamp not later than 300 B.C. (29.736). From near 'Cut F' the land falls gently to the east over a series of rounded rubbish mounds, the slope being covered with foundations of ruined buildings. A track formed by the head of a wādi starting near Zibb Far'ōn runs down the steep hill-side to the Wādi Farasa (Pl. XLIII), having previously joined a path from Wādi Mūsa which had skirted the 'Upper Market' (*QDAP*, VII, Pl. I, 30). This was

¹ Continued from Vol. VII, p. 42.

² These excavations were financed by the Melchett Exploration Fund.

³ The pottery in the series 29.570 onwards is in the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Downing Street, Cambridge. The series 36.000 is in the Palestine Archaeological Museum, Jerusalem.

considered by Wiegand to represent the ancient south road out of the city, leading to a gate observed by him in the most westerly bend of the Wādi Farasa,¹ and not seen by us. Such a road and gate would have suppl-

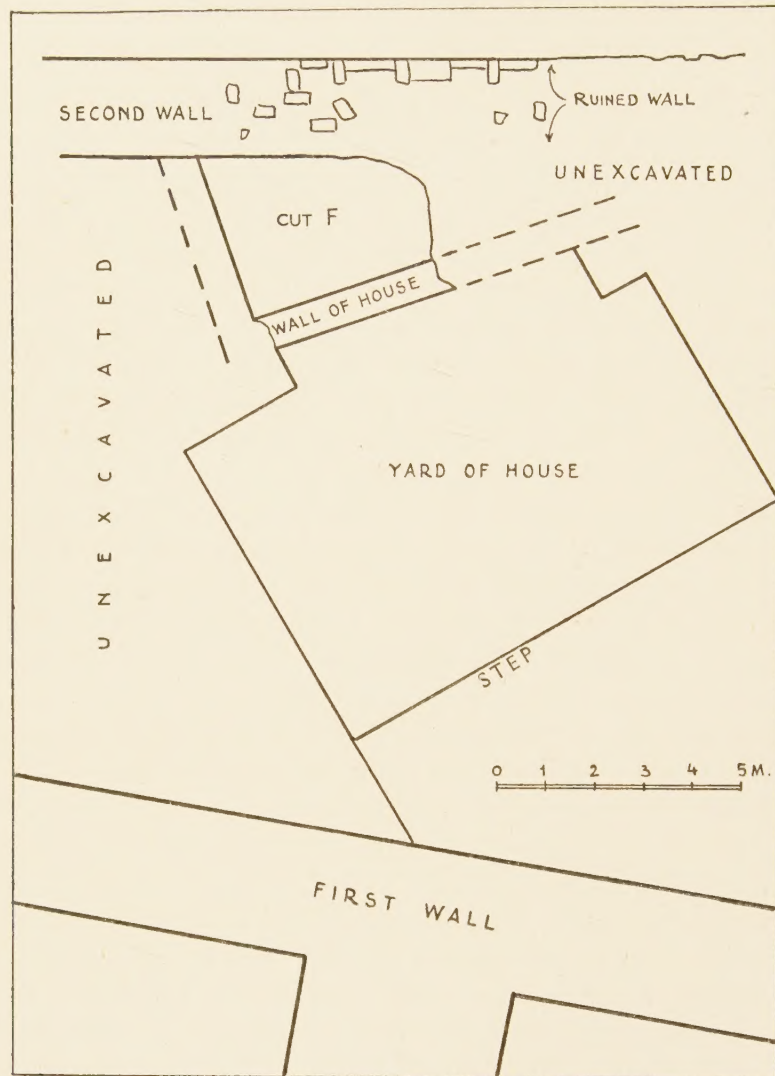


FIG. 1. Plan of cut 'F' illustrating Pl. XLIV.

mented the other southern exit from the town by the Wādi Kharrūbet Ibn Jureime, between el Ḥabīs and el Biyāra, described in Chapter I.

Beyond the track the First Wall is lost, but reappears and turns at right angles, runs due south, then east, and descends in steps to be lost at last in the over-

¹ Wiegand, *Petra*, p. 3.

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lying sand. At no great depth is the rock scarp, and on the top of this the wall continues running along the height of the Katūte rubbish dump, broken once more by a small wādi which has cut through the wall in carrying off the water from the slopes behind that form the pyramidal base of Zanṭūr. On the east side of this wādi the wall is visible as a broken and disappearing fragment, 10 m. west of cut 'A' in Katūte, at a point where the rock scarp, covered in debris, is within 2 m. of the surface.

Zanṭūr.

As was pointed out in Chapter I the great rock mass of Zanṭūr, about 250 m. long by 100 m. wide, cuts at right angles through the ridge running from east to west which defines the southern limit of the city and forms the right bank of the Wādi Farasa (*QDAP*, VII, Pl. I, No. 28). Formerly more prominent as a crag it has gradually been chiselled away and is now half buried in the rubbish dumps of its former inhabitants, the surface covered with blown sand, loose stones, foundations and fragments of fine and coarse Nabataean pottery.

Its eastern face was scarped and carved into a fairly straight line, but on the west were four levels; an upper platform once crowned with a tower and below it a tier of three parallel terraces, each about 20 m. wide, divided by longitudinal walls. The summit was occupied as early as 300 B.C., since the south end is buried in the Katūte rubbish dump whose lowest deposit yielded pottery of this date.

A large cavern has been cut out of the angle of the north face of Zanṭūr from which a tail of white rock, 2 m. wide, runs out and is continued for 40 m. in a masonry wall. On the northern summit, back from this great hole, is a thirty metre square foundation of the main tower (Pl. XLIII), now but a pile of stones, while a slightly smaller one crowns the lower southern extremity (Pl. XLIII).

The north-west *arrête* of Zanṭūr is seen in profile on the same plate, where the remains of towers at the angles of the top and bottom terraces can be distinguished and were joined by a wall. From the lower tower the bottom wall of the first terrace runs southwards until it is lost in the sands. Near it at the north end is the angle of a building, once connected with the now isolated column of Zibb Far'ōn, and which ran back more than 31 m. into the hillside.¹ (Pl. XLIII.)

As no excavation has been undertaken outside the dumps and the accumulated rubbish defeats more than a superficial surface inquiry, no measured

¹ *QDAP*, VII, Pl. XIII, 1, shows the south-west corner of this building which is partly planned in Wiegand's *Petra*, Fig. 53. The 'Byzantine Building' there drawn behind it seems to be the bottom wall of the lowest terrace.

drawing of Zanṭūr can be provided. But from their position, size, and strength the ruins must have belonged to a fortress abutting on the southern city wall, perhaps the seat of government of the Nabataean kings and their merchant predecessors, who from its massive central tower could have commanded a view over the entire city in all directions. The stone wall forming the southern platform of the south tower is of similar masonry to the best stretch of the First town wall (cf. *QDAP*, VII, Pls. XIII, 2 and Pl. XVII, 1 *ibid.*). It is possible that both may date from about 300 B.C.

The fortress was still in occupation when the ruder Second Wall to the north abutted into its sides (*QDAP*, VII, Plan B); built at a date unknown, but posterior to the Roman occupation in A.D. 106, when the monuments had deteriorated and their fine stone became available for its construction.

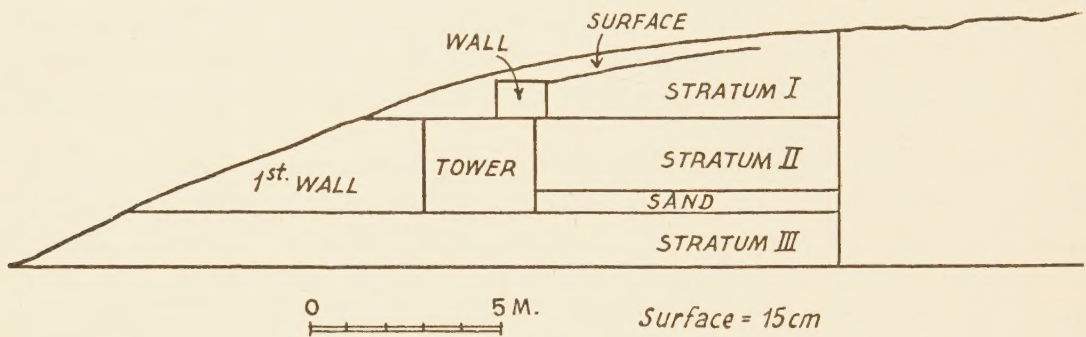


FIG. 2. Cut 'A' Section.

Katūte. Cut 'A' (Plates XLV, XLVI, 1 and Fig. 2).

The main excavation, in 1929, was made at the south of Zanṭūr in the third mound of the great dump called *Katūte*. This point was chosen for a trial cut as it seemed to be the deepest and the wādi bed a natural dump. To the east is a detached squared mass of rock behind which the crag rises in two low escarpments. In the hill-side, two metres below the bottom of the cut, in rubbish-dump 'A', the rock breaks out once more, in part supporting the dump, and falls to the bed of the Wādi Farasa below. Twelve metres down, on a small shelf or projection, are two shaft graves. The deposit is of loose sand and when it was being piled up in antiquity had a tendency to slide from north to south as well as to the west.

Work was begun on the west side (Pl. XLVI, 1) where at the top 0.15 m. of blown sand were cleared from above the First Wall at its junction with the dump (Pl. XLIII). The men were then transferred to the opposite end and a cut begun from the front, 8 m. wide and starting 2 m. below the highest point at the north-east corner. This was worked in two levels; and, as the

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trench was driven farther into the mound, the top ledge of the same rock scarp, which appears above the Wādi Farasa, was reached and formed the bottom of Stratum I. At the back of this cut, driven 9 m. in, the top of the exposed north face showed the same 0.15 m. of sand mixed with sherds as the west side had done. Beneath was a flow of house rubbish about 0.50 m. thick increasing to 1 m. in depth as it extended westwards in a gentle decline. Under it, on the north face, a grey stratum of wood ashes was deposited, at a depth of 1.25 m. from the surface, continuing almost on a level westwards across the corner made by the junction of the north and west faces and seen on Pl. XLVI, 1 as a white streak. At the east end of the cut little pottery was found; but there were deposits of ashes, most of the filling consisting of sandy earth and stones with streaks of red sand.

The limit of the cut on the west was defined by a rough wall about 2 m. high, built of large squared stones (Pl. XLVI, 1), the joints wedged up with small ones, running at right angles into the First Wall. It is of a later poorer construction and probably belonged to a tower or bastion whose corner is broken away at the junction with the First Wall near the front of the cut. Its foundations of small stones set in mud were pushed deep down into the Stratum II deposit below, and between this wall and the back of the cut, projecting slightly forwards from its inner face, is a still later wall of rubble construction, about 1 m. high.

Stratum II, beginning below the rock shelf, was worked in two levels and dropped to an average of 1.50 m. to 2 m. The east end had defined stratifications of house rubbish mixed with stones but hardly any pottery, and finished on the west side on a bed of sand 0.50 m. thick, separating Stratum II from III.

Stratum III began at 4.50 m. from the highest point, and 3.50 m. from the top of the bastion wall, reaching bed rock at an average depth of 1.50 m. The pottery from it was classified as coming from the front, the middle, and the inside of the cut.

Stratum I. The lowest row of large stones belonging to the bastion wall is level with the bottom of Stratum I, where a find of two coins of Aretas IV (9 B.C. to A.D. 40), proves that both wall and tower cannot be earlier in date than the turn of the Christian era, and may be later.

The pottery from Stratum I was thinly distributed and contained sherds of coarse local vessels of red clay with heavily moulded rims, some with a white slip (29.580); ridged vessels of very thick rough red clay (29.582); wine-jar fragments of brown clay with pointed bases (29.586); large white amphora handles, tall, thin, and double-stranded (29.587); fragments of shallow bowls with turn-over rims washed black and white (29.583), and lamps of extreme

crudeness (29.576). There were bases of Nabataean painted ware characterized by broad intersecting red and purplish bands of colour (29.608), a type lasting into the third century A.D.;¹ a little imported *sigillata*, a very little glass, a few Roman discus lamps, and some coarse figurines. This level mainly contains late second century A.D. pottery (Stratum I, 1), but overlaps in Stratum I, 2 with the ware of the Nabataean kingdom displayed in Stratum II. On the surface were still later sherds from the third century A.D. onwards corresponding with the pots found in the latest graves and bought from the Bdūl; as well as specimens of the wares of all dates found at Petra, save those of the Edomite Iron Age confined to the flat top of el Biyāra.

Stratum II. Unlike the thin distribution of pottery in Stratum I, this level was prolific in coarse and fine Nabataean wares, in native and imported discus lamps and *terra sigillata*. Most characteristic is the delicate painted ware which identifies every Nabataean site in Trans-Jordan and Palestine. The imported *sigillata* and Rhodian amphorae of the second century B.C. overlap with the finds in Stratum III, but the main contents illustrate the Late Hellenistic Nabataean culture of the first centuries B.C. and A.D., when Nabatene was a flourishing independent state with Petra as its capital. In a general way Stratum II, 1 represents the first century A.D. lasting well into the second century, and Stratum II, 2 the first century B.C. extending back into the second.

Stratum III. Coarse pottery predominated in front of the cut with fragments of *sigillata* of the second century B.C. The earlier sherds came from bed rock inside; dated jar handles of the late third and first half of the second centuries B.C., and imported Attic ware of about 300 B.C. This level illustrates the slow growth of the Nabataean state from 300 B.C. to the first century B.C., and overlaps with Stratum II.

Above cut 'A', at its south-east end, the rock of Zanṭūr is honeycombed with caverns natural and artificial (Pl. XLV), which are continued on its east and north sides. Only in the ruins of the south tower are there drums of columns, bases, and squared stones, as well as masonry walls, with rough fragments abutting against them built from old material. Twenty metres to the south of this tower the First Wall runs east for 150 m. (Pl. XLVI, 2), cutting across a small wādī (not marked on the map), below a flow of rubbish from the top of Zanṭūr which to-day greatly obscures its height. It then mounts a rock scarp at the base of a large rubbish dump, 'C' (Pl. XLIII and XLVI, 2), which is joined by a glacis of stones on the west, to dump 'B' (Pl. XLVI, 2) east of Katūte. In this section the wall is merely a low curtain wall 2 m. thick,

¹ We are indebted to Mr. T. J. Colin Baly for knowledge of comparative material from 'Auja el Ḥafīr, Palestine, allowing of a more precise dating of this ware.

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having lost its outer facing, and after various changes of direction it strikes the Theatre Ridge at right angles near a large pylon tomb¹ close to dump 'C'.²

The Katūte dump is the only one which flows over the First Wall, well in front of cut 'F', and dumps 'B' and 'C', which lie between the two walls; and it would seem that the line of the First Wall was pushed out to include the southern spur of Zanṭūr from which came the rubbish in Katūte.

The small cuts in 'B' and 'C' were undertaken as checks to the main Katūte sounding, and started 3 m. below the top of each mound. At 2 m., in 'C' dump, a coin of Rabbel II (A.D. 71-106) was found and the pottery was the same as that in Stratum I, 2 and II, 1 of Katūte. In dump 'B' bed-rock was reached at 2½ m., and except for an inscribed Rhodian jar-handle (29.690), not yet dated, Stratum III was unrepresented, and the contents synchronized with Stratum II of Katūte. As second and third century B.C. objects were found at bed-rock in cut 'F' a greater antiquity for the town to the west of Zanṭūr is indicated, as was suggested in Chapter I.³

(b) TOMB CHAMBERS AND GRAVES. HISTORY AND SITUATION

Grave digging by the poverty-stricken natives of Petra, the Bdūl, provides the complete lamps and pots sold to tourists every season. Their harvest is but a small return for much labour since graves with anything in them are rare. The great monuments with architectural façades under el Khubtha and the innumerable pylon tombs, large and small, all over the site, were naturally violated first; so it was not till 1936 that the Department of Antiquities, Trans-Jordan, cleared the Palace Tomb, the Khazne, the Tomb of the Urn, and the Tomb of the Roman Soldier. In the latter the unexpected discovery was made of a sarcophagus base, 2.50 m. long and 2.50 m. from the back wall, central with the door but not with the niche above it. It seems probable that the four wide-arched alcoves in the same tomb were designed for sarcophagi, as were perhaps the original two niches in the centre of the back wall of the tomb of the Urn,⁴ out of which three semi-domes were carved about A.D. 447, when it was transformed into a church (Pl. XLVII, 1). The only other cleared chambers in the same great row of tombs⁵ were also found to be empty and the size and shape for sarcophagi. High up in the central

¹ Brünnow and Domaszewski, *Provincia Arabia*, I, No. 189.

² Wiegand's *Petra*, Fig. 1, shows the foundations of a gate, not far from this ridge and perhaps in the First Wall.

³ In 1936 an unstratified dump 'D' (*QDAP*, VII, Pl. I, no. 68) yielded a large amount of pottery; as did an unstratified trench 'E' excavated to bed rock at the junction of the First Wall with the Tower Sanctuary (*QDAP*, VII, Pl. XIV, 2).

⁴ *Br. & Dom.*, Fig. 445.

⁵ *Br. & Dom.*, 770 and Fig. 440.

chamber of the Palace Tomb are rock-cut bases for four¹ more; and if Nabataean grandees were interred in this manner, that most sumptuous monument of all, the Khazne, is explained as a tomb, with its plain empty chambers within, a profusion of decoration and sculpture without and angle acroteria of eagles, the symbols of apotheosis.

Our assumption from their scale that the largest tombs under el Khubtha were royal is borne out by an inscription found inside the tomb of 'Onaišhū (*Br.* 808), beyond the tomb of the Urn and in the same row,² saying that he was the brother of Shaqilat, Queen of the Nabataeans.

The inscribed tomb of the second Roman Legate, Sextus Florentinus (*Br.* 763 and *QDAP*, VII, Pl. XV), the successor of the Nabataean kings, who died at Petra in A.D. 117, is as close to the Palace tomb as the formation of the cliff wall permitted. It had no sarcophagus and the Legate must have been buried in the central and most elaborately carved recess in the back row of loculi (Pl. XLVII, 2). Fragments of alabaster vases retrieved from it in 1936 came from the original burial. Common in the larger pylon tombs is this arrangement of loculi, the graves standing out at right angles from the walls on three sides, in niches to-day weathered out of shape, though one sheltered tomb retains its original surface inside and out³ and closely resembles one at Medāin Salih dated A.D. 5.⁴ The burials of the builder of this tomb and his son were in the two middle loculi in the back wall.⁵ (See below, p. 101.)

In the central chambers of the tomb complex in the Farasa Wādi (*Br.* 228; *QDAP*, VII, Pl. LXXIII, 1), the loculi at the end were violated; but several in the left wall, on clearance, revealed simple shaft graves, the shafts about a metre deep filled with sand, which seemed not to have been disturbed. At a depth of 0.60 m. stone slabs rested on ledges immediately above the corpse, one remaining partly in position, though the graves were empty. The right wall was carved into shallow panels unique at Petra.

Shaft graves in the open air, the commonest method of burial and the easiest to violate, were as a rule of exactly the same type as the shafts in these loculi. But in group A, at a high level overlooking the Lower Siyāgh from the north, near its junction with the Wādi Kharrūbet Ibn Jureime (Pl. XLVIII, 1), the shafts were shallower, only 0.45 m. deep, and more roughly made. 'A 2' and 'A 3' yielded three lamps of the fourth century A.D. (29.795-7). In a tomb chamber, 'A 1' (Pl. XLVIII, 2), in the same group, the graves had their cover stones partially intact at ground level and contained two

¹ *Ibid.*, Fig. 431.

² *QDAP*, VII, Pl. 1, 50.

³ *Br. & Dom.*, 476.

⁴ Jaussen and Savignac, *Mission Archéologique en Arabie*, vol. I, 1909. Tomb A. 3, Figs. 172, 173.

⁵ *Ibid.*, Fig. 175. For inscriptions see *idem*, pp. 141-5.

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exceptionally fine fragments of Nabataean drinking cups of the first century B.C.—A.D. (29.900 and 29.611).

On first sight the cliffs of Petra seem to be riddled with natural sandstone caves, potential burying places. After vainly clearing out three such chambers silted to the top with sand at river level in the Farasa Wādi, opposite Zantūr; and three similar ones in the high west bank of the lower reach of the Wādi Mu'eişra esh-Sharqiye, we uncovered in the opposite bank of the same wādi Caves '1', '2', and '3' (Pl. LI, 20 and XLIX, 1). These were not natural caves, but excavations in the rock, all roughly of the same general plan; a single chamber with a forecourt; two have remains of a door between and only one contained graves, which may have been intrusive. It is possible that all the chambers in regular rows on both sides of this wādi show in decay tiers of houses like those in the Lower Siyāgh, Wādi ed Deir and Wādi Mūsa. 'Cave 2' (Pl. L), be it house or tomb, is the only extant specimen of a rock-cut chamber with a built-up stone front, postulated in Chapter I as the normal type of edifice in rock-hewn terraces.

The hope of finding undisturbed burials in a surface cemetery was given up when two broken coffins with the usual diagonal tooling, spied near the edge of the Wādi Abu 'Ollēqa, directly opposite the Turkmaniye tomb, and lying in the ground beneath 3 m. of deposit, yielded nothing but fragments of bone.

El-Mu'eişra Ridge Tombs. (Fig. 3, Pl. LI, and *QDAP*, VII, Pl. X.)

The Mu'eişra ridge between Wādi ed-Deir and the upper Siyāgh was more repaying. The tongue can be climbed by a Nabataean road, on an easy gradient, deeply worn into the rock of successive terraces formed by tiers of carved chambers extending its whole width and overlooking both wādis (*QDAP*, VII, Pl. X). The path, after crossing the roof of a chamber in the top tier, comes out on a long terrace, in part on two levels; Lower Junction Terrace; ending on the east as a bluff over the Upper Siyāgh, and to the west overlooking the Wādi Mu'eişra el Gharbiye from a height (Fig. 3 and *QDAP*, VII, Pl. X). On the north the jagged white sandstone crown of the lower half of the ridge towers up and to the south-east falls as steeply, ending as a cliff dominating the Siyāgh into whose very edge shaft graves have been carved (Fig. 3).

Crossing Lower Junction Terrace in a north-easterly direction at the easiest gradient around the shoulder, the rock is carved into long shelves, forming steps, into which three shafts communicating with underground tomb chambers were sunk ('B 1', 'B 2', 'B 3', Pl. LII).¹ The shafts of 'B 1' and 'B 2' yielded a considerable find of unbroken pots belonging to the overlap of

¹ See below, pp. 102-4.

Stratum I and II, and for objects 'B 1' was the most interesting tomb found. 'B 2' contained the largest and finest fragments of Nabataean painted ware. The five shallow graves to the south-east overlooking the Upper Siyāgh (marked 'S')

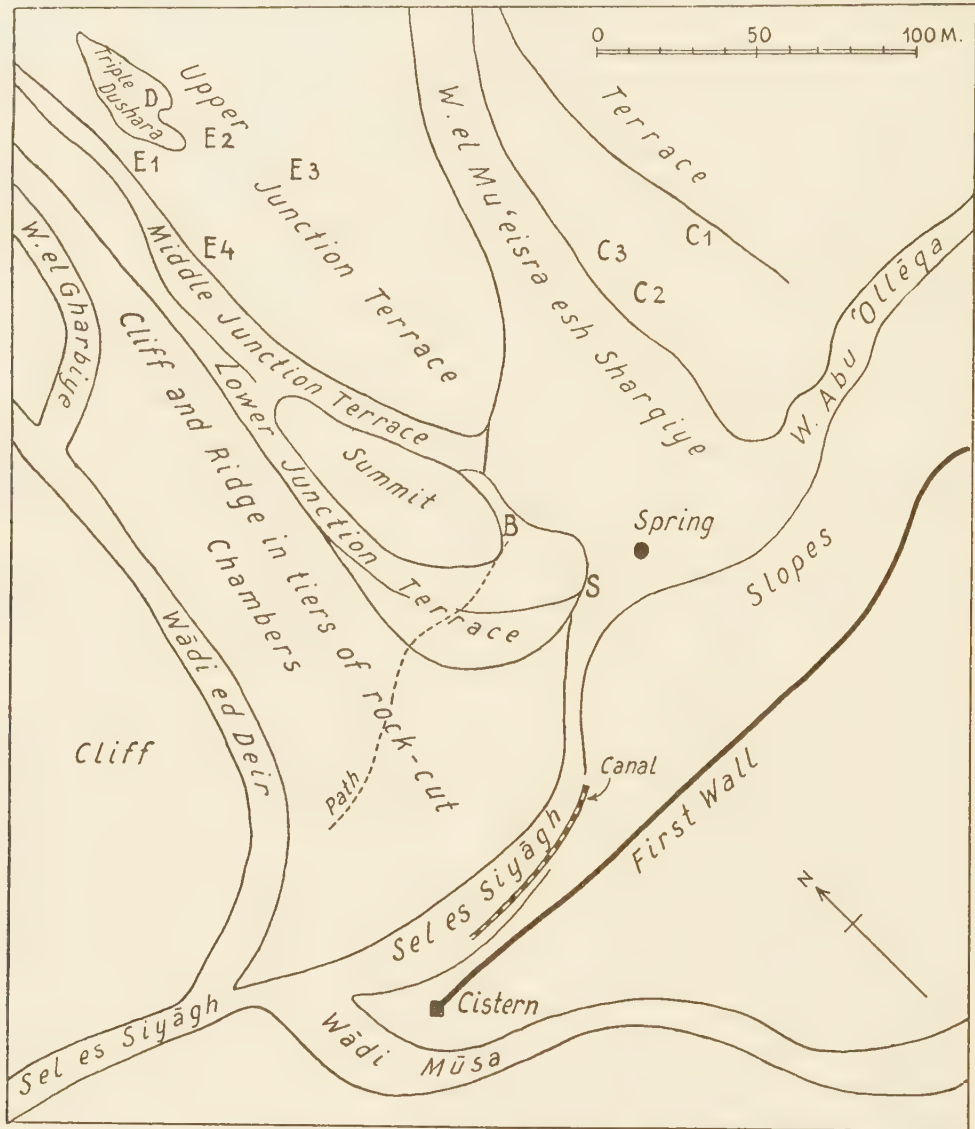


FIG. 3. Sketch-plan of el Mu'eisra Ridge showing position of tombs.

on Fig. 3) were of the same type as those of the loculi in the Farasa tomb complex (Br. 228), with stone cover slabs some 0.60 m. down at the level of the corpse. One was filled with a mass of stones and broken bones; the others were empty.

From Middle Junction Terrace overlooked by the 'B' tombs, the northern

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half of the Mu'eişra Ridge (Pl. LI) rises in a gentle slope, Upper Junction Terrace. At its north-west angle is an irregular outcrop of rock (Pl. LI, 1-6), with three conspicuous chambers at ground level which were not deeply silted up (Pl. LIII, 1). In two of them, three betyls of Dushara, carved in the back wall of each, suggested an excavation of the floors in front. In the case of the main chamber, 'D 4' (*Br.* 550), deeply cut shaft graves (Pl. LVI), some undisturbed, were revealed, in which a unique type of cremation burial was found in the graves associated with the symbols and in two of the others. We named it the 'Tomb of the Triple Dushara'. (See below, pp. 108-11.)

On a higher level and behind it in the same outcrop, is a small court of three deteriorated pylon tombs ('D 1', 'D 2', 'D 3', Pl. LI, 1-3, and LIII, 2), all of which were dug and produced one tiny cup (29.765), the sole object yet found in a pylon tomb; those excavated in the Siyāgh having yielded nothing but a cloud of dust. All the remaining chambers in this Triple Dushara complex were explored; all had been rifled and contained only drift sand and small Nabataean sherds, not recognizable as such in 1929. In the rock surrounding the complex were simple shaft graves, cleared of sand in 1929, but all previously gutted.

Shafts communicating with underground tomb chambers (E 1-3) of the type of 'B 2' were found on Upper Junction Terrace (see Pl. LI, Nos. 7, 9, 10). The latter, 'E 3', provided the oldest tomb group (corresponding with Stratum III) and the first recognized as being of local fabric. The tomb chamber was four or five metres below ground with staggered toe-holes to enter it by, like the Persian-Hellenistic tombs in the cemetery at 'Atlīt, Palestine. But, unlike them, the shaft was sealed with cover stones level with the ground, and the chamber inside left open, as was the usual Nabataean custom. Of the many shafts explored in this picked area, only two (Nos. 7 and 10) led to rewarding tombs ('E 1', and 'E 3'), and one (No. 8) to a shaft grave ('E 4'), containing an unbroken pot contemporary with Stratum III. In 'E 3' and 'E 4' the bones had been partially burnt. (See below, pp. 112-15.)

el Ḥabīs Tombs.

The second main exploration was attempted in what had been a large tomb complex lying below the southern tip of el Ḥabīs overlooking the Wādi Kharrūbet Ibn Jureime. This ruined agglomeration of tombs, must once have resembled those immediately opposite under el Biyāra. (*Br. & Dom.*, 362, 394, and Fig. 328). But, quarried in antiquity, they produce an effect unparalleled at Petra (Pl. LIV, 2). Even better for illustration owing to the shape of the cliff, is a complex south of the large theatre (Pl. LIV, 1), where the pylons on the lowest tier correspond with the almost worn away chunks

of rock in the foreground of Pl. LIV, 2. In Pl. LIV, 1 the two upper tiers, if quarried back, would resemble the main line in Pl. LIV, 2, where the doors of the original pylons have given place to irregularly spaced holes representing mutilated tomb chambers.

In the northern and most derelict pylons at the end of this complex, lower and not visible in Pl. LIV, 2, was a hidden undisturbed sepulchre high up (Pl. LV, 1 and Fig. 9) discovered from below. When the main chamber at ground level, facing the wādi, had been dug in vain, a crack in its ceiling in a vertical stratification of the rock into which ants had built a nest revealed another tomb above it. Searching for this hidden room from outside with a crowbar, a soft place was felt, which proved to be a rift in the rock in alignment with the one below; a slit shaft, in fact, through the roof of the upper tomb chamber. The formal entry is a well preserved square doorway found from the inside when digging out the tomb. Inscribed above it is a moulded semicircle of a type not uncommon at Petra. Four graves, with intact skeletons, a few pots, and a rough piece of painted ware from the overlap of Strata I and II, standing a metre above them on the sand, were found inside. This tomb chamber, with its upper side entrance, is unlikely to have been contemporary with the original carving of the complex since no such arrangement has been observed elsewhere. (See below pp. 104-106.)

From this progression of (*a*) the pylon complex; (*b*) the later top chamber with undisturbed burials; (*c*) the still later pottery 1 m. above the graves, we may push back into the second century B.C. the original carving of the complex. And as this is to-day almost unrecognizable as such from quarrying and reuse, other pylon complexes of the late fourth or third centuries B.C. may well have vanished altogether. In the simple pylon type there is no progression in style and the persistence of its form suggests the Persian-Babylonian background of the Nabatu, the original Nabataean invaders of Edom.

Shaft graves were sometimes sunk into the tops of pylon tombs and would naturally be of later date than the burials inside the tomb chambers. In the rock immediately to the south-east of the hidden tomb described above, a number of shallow shaft graves were cleared with no results. Near these, at a slightly higher level,¹ three underground tomb chambers entered by shafts ('F 1', 'F 2', 'F 3'), were only of interest in that, like the arched tomb, they contained undisturbed skeletons, orientated with the heads facing east, and with no sign of burnt bones. But to the south the shallow graves visible in Pl. LIV, 2 in the roofs of the pylons, as well as the shaft graves farther south and west in the same complex, were cleared out. All had been

¹ Pl. LV, 1. The north tomb group, and Figs. 4, 5, 6.

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disturbed, but seven contained single complete pots contemporary with Stratum I ware. In the shaft of another were fragments of six different alabaster vases and a stone one, of interest for comparison with the broken pieces found in the tomb of the Roman Legate, Sextus Florentinus,¹ presumably dating from the year of his death, A.D. 117. As in the Fayūm, Ptolemaic graves from 150 B.C. onwards, and Roman ones as late as the third century A.D., sometimes contained alabaster pots.² These were probably imported from Egypt to Nabatene, although alabaster is found in the Wādi el Ḥesa north of Petra.

The architect of the 'Tomb of the Roman Soldier' (*QDAP*, VII, Pl. LXX) executed a plainer version of it on a great scale in the Farasa Wādi (*Br.* 258); and beneath the ceiling is a row of loculi inserted at right angles into the back wall.³ A tomb near it (*Br.* 256), whose façade has perished, shows this arrangement more clearly (Pl. LV, 2), and there are two of the same type above the door of the inner chamber of the Turkmaniye tomb (*Br.* 476, Fig. 410). Similar graves, high up and irregularly spaced, can be seen in a pylon tomb in en Nasāra (*Br.* 676, Fig. 410), in combination with the usual form of loculus. Two more are in the triclinium of the Obelisk tomb (*Br.* 34, Fig. 238). All these, now inaccessible without ladders, and unexplored, must have been made as the tombs were being carved from the top downwards. These 'Schiebegräber', the common Hellenistic form in Alexandria, were unknown in Rome.³

The conspicuous columbarium⁴ (*QDAP*, VII, Pl. XLIII, 2) in the east face of el Ḥabīs is the only one at Petra. It was turned into a house at some period and the niches in the back wall of the front chamber cut back. But depressions in them mark the original position of the urns and there are still traces of ashes. Remains of somewhat similar rock-cut columbaria exist near the caves at 'Irāq el Amīr⁵ and at Khaw⁵ in Transjordan.

The columbarium marks the last stage in the burning of the Nabataean dead, which can be followed from the incomplete destruction of the bones in Tombs 'E 3' and 'E 4' of Stratum III, to the reduction of the body to dust by quicklime in the Tomb of the Triple Dushara. The burials in the late graves near el Ḥabīs show no signs of burning, and the columbarium at this stage may have superseded all other methods of cremation.

¹ See below pp. 100-101. ² Grenfell, Hunt and Hogarth, *Fayūm Towns*, pp. 55, 57.

³ The term 'Schiebegrab' was invented for this type of loculus by Titus Tobler. See Th. Schreiber. Expedition Ernst Sieglin, I, 1. *Die Nekropole von Kôm-esch-Schukâfa*, 202, Figs. 66, 74; and C. Watzinger in Wiegand, *Palmyra* 79 ff. ⁴ See Kennedy, *Petra*. Fig. 132.

⁵ Both unpublished. Khaw is the Roman 'Gadda' near the thirteenth milestone north of Amman (south-east of Kal'at ez Zerka station). Photographs of both are in the Palestine Archaeological Museum.

(c) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EXCAVATED TOMBS
(grouped by Strata I–III according to their contents).

South and South-West Group of Graves in the Roof and South End of the Pylon Complex South of el Ḥabīs. With Stratum I. (Pl. LIV, 2.)

All the shallow graves in the roof of this pylon complex, as well as the shaft graves at its south end, were cleared and produced a number of complete pots

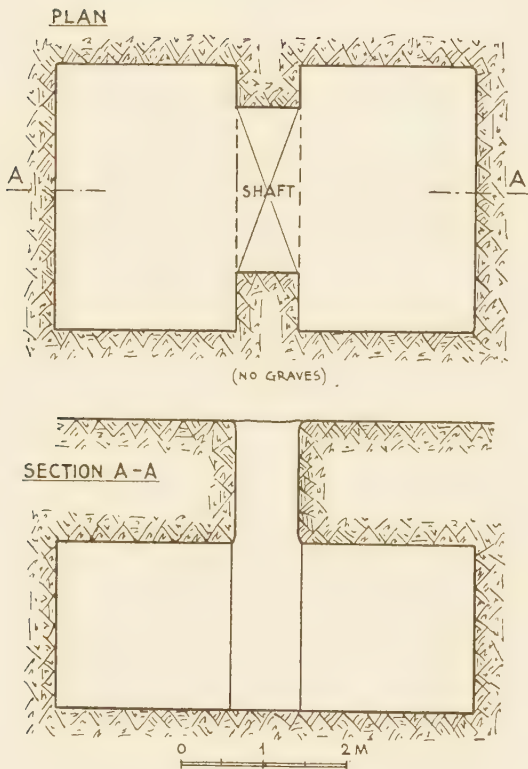


FIG. 4. Tomb 'F 1'.

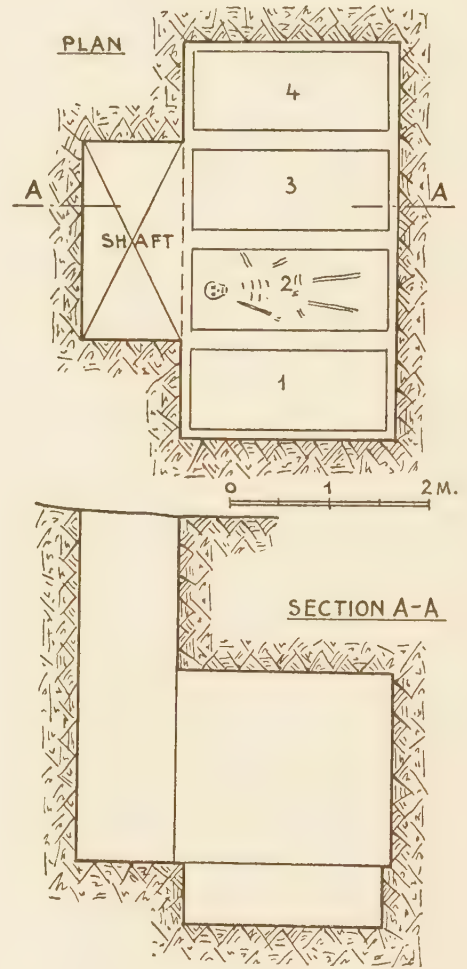


FIG. 5. Tomb 'F 2'.

of interesting shapes, all contemporary with Stratum I, save a globular jug (29.951) which may be Byzantine. Nos. 29.952–4 and 36.812 came each from a different grave, and 36.902 and 36.811 from the same one. The alabaster fragments of vases (29.788–93) and one of stone (29.794), resembling a broken alabastron from the Tomb of Sextus Florentinus, were found in a shaft.

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The North Tomb Group, el Ḥabīs. With Stratum I? (Pl. LV, 1.)

This group consists of three tomb chambers entered by shafts in the roof of the complex just south of the North Tomb el Ḥabīs.

Tomb F 1. Fig. 4.

A plain double-chamber entered by a shaft between; in plan unique at Petra. It had no graves and no contents.

Tomb F 2. Fig. 5.

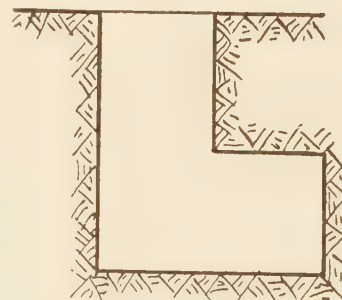
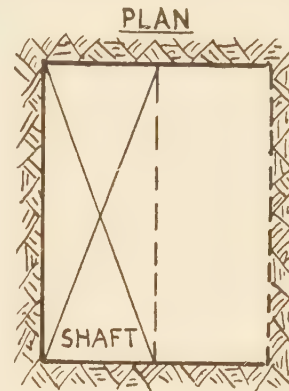
A duplicate in plan of Tomb 'E 1' (Fig. 16, p. 112) on the Mu'eiṣra Ridge. The chamber was undisturbed in recent times and grave No. 2 contained a skeleton lying on its back on a bed of sand and with the head to the east. In grave No. 4 fragments of a skeleton, too much decayed to show whether the head was to west or east, were lying above other fragments of bone in the sand. It is possible that it too had an eastern orientation, and that the graves may have been re-used in the Christian period. There were no objects.

Tomb F 3. Fig. 6.

This tomb chamber was a recess, 1.75 m. deep opening to the right of the shaft entrance, and with nothing in it. Near it were two shallow graves, 0.80 m. deep, each with two circular sinkings at the head, which may have taken the two small obelisks, common symbols of the Nabataean Dushara, seen in 1929 lying not far away.

Tomb of Sextus Florentinus. With Stratum I. (QDAP, VII, Pl. XV.)

This tomb chamber has a central loculus beneath a low arch in the middle of the back wall, wider than the two on either side (Pl. XLVII, 2), and obviously the site of the main burial. (See *Br. and Dom.*, Fig. 428, for plan.) On clearance of the stones piled up inside, the usual shaft grave was found, which had been disturbed, but still contained three fragments of alabaster pots (36.888), and nothing else.



SECTION

0 1M.

FIG. 6. Tomb 'F 3'.

Lower Junction Terrace, Mu'eisra Ridge.

Tomb B I. With Stratum I, I and II, I. (Pl. LII and Fig. 7.)

This tomb was of the Persian-Hellenistic type found at 'Atlit, Palestine,¹

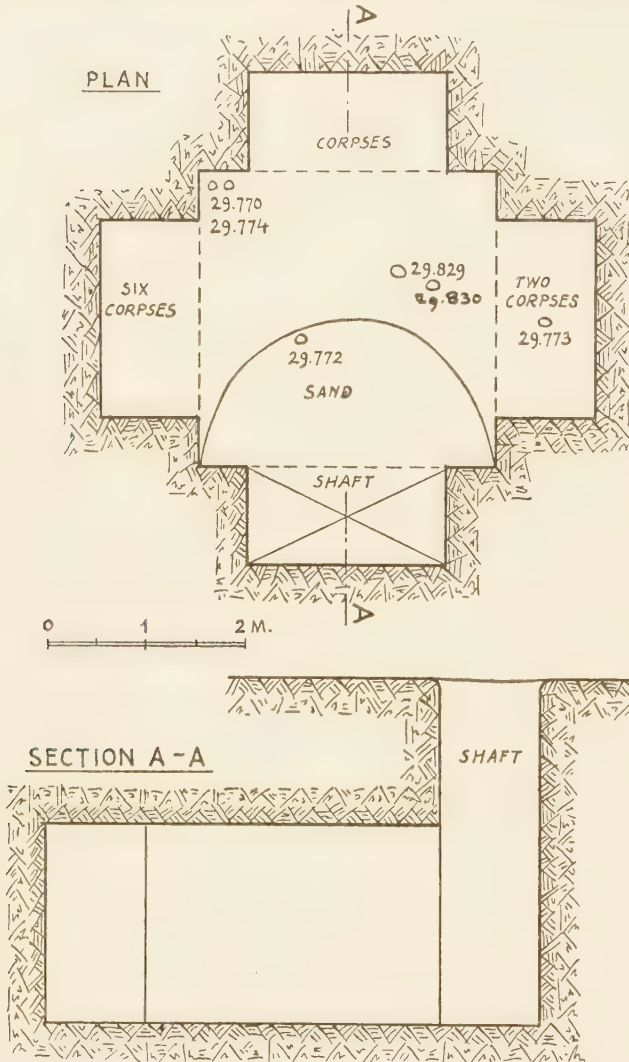


FIG. 7. Tomb 'B I'.

Nabataean saucer of the same date, found on the floor of the chamber (29.769), must have belonged to the first use of the tomb. Four weaving weights (29.813), a bone ring, and a child's copper wire bracelet, were found with the saucer, and no graves had been cut in the bottom of the chamber.

¹ See *QDAP*, II, pp. 41-104.

² Broneer. *Corinth*. IV, 2: 'Terracotta Lamps', Cambridge, Mass., 1930.

entered by a shaft communicating with a tomb chamber. The shaft was sealed to the surface, but only partially filled with sand, and, on digging it out, a side-chamber was disclosed, 1 m. down. Where the shaft cut it a glissade of sand had started in antiquity extending half-way across the floor of the chamber, to where inside, at the bottom of the slope, lay a water jug (29.772) of the second century A.D., partially blackened by fire.

On the surface of the chamber was a mass of human bones and thirteen human skulls, the remains in all probability of the first occupants of the tomb and partly buried by the glissade. The only object with the bones was a tiny relief of Pegasus, wedged into the middle of one of the skulls (29.829), and, broken off, a lamp centre (29.830) of the Roman discus form (Broneer type XXII),² of excellent workmanship, and dating from the turn of the Christian era. A

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In the recesses lay human skeletons, six in one, two in another, in no order, and giving an impression as of persons who had strayed living into the chamber with their cooking pots and a water-jug. All the pots with them belong to the late second century A.D. Two, which had held food (29.770 and 29.774), and were partially filled with sand, stood in a corner of the central chamber, and another in a recess near the two skeletons (29.773).

The shaft contained the most complete, varied, and unbroken collection of Nabataean pottery of the first century B.C.—A.D. yet found in Petra (29.743–29.755 and 29.890–29.891). At the very bottom was a Nabataean rhyton in the form of a rabbit and a mask mould of Isis, which in Egypt would date from about A.D. 1. It would seem then that this tomb had been re-used and the shaft partially filled up with objects perhaps from the original burials. Into it came the later occupants, with their four cooking-pots of Stratum I, 1 ware, which we can date as later than the other objects by at least a hundred and fifty years.

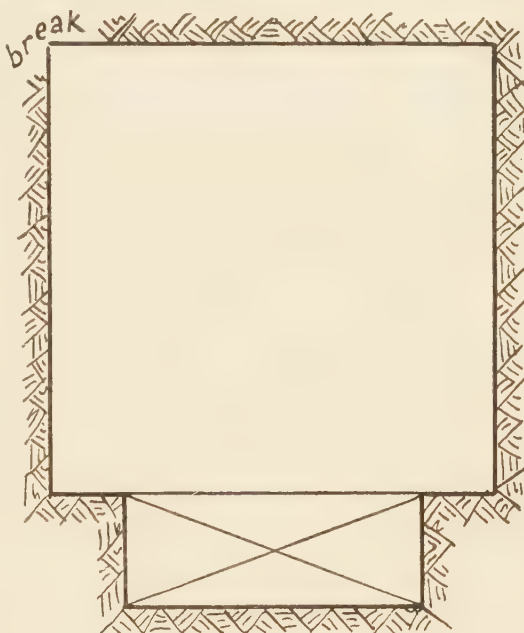


FIG. 8. Tomb 'B 2'.

Tomb B 2. With Stratum I, 2 and II, 1. (Pl. LII and Fig. 8.)

This square tomb chamber, next to 'B 1' and presumably of the date of its first occupants, was visible from a break in the left back corner, and entered without touching the partially cleared shaft. There were three graves in the floor covered with stone slabs, all empty.

The filling of the shaft contained small bowls of the usual first century B.C.—A.D. type; a small purplish vase shaped like a pomegranate (29.892) and the two largest fragments of Nabataean painted pottery yet found at Petra; one a plate (29.671) and the other a bowl (29.669). The design of each has been completely restored.

Tomb A 1 overlooking the Siyāgh and Wādi Kharrūbet Ibn Jureime. With Stratum I, 2 and II, 1. (Pl. XLVIII.)

The cover stones were partially in position (Pl. XLVIII, 2), and from the filling of the shaft came the top of a glass bottle of first century A.D. type (29.756) and a fragment of a stone window grill (*QDAP*, VII, Pl. LVII, 1). Inside, three out of the four graves produced a complete pot (36.810), a twisted handle fragment of a very thin cup or vase of typical first century A.D. ware (29.611), and a fragmentary cup stamped with spirals and with a plaited handle reproducing a metal object of great delicacy (29.900). The fourth held nothing but a mass of bones in disorder, showing no signs of burning.

North Tomb, el Ḥabīs. With Stratum I, 2 and II, 1. (Pl. LV, 1 and Fig. 9.)

The tomb chamber, 3.50 m. square and 2 m. high, has a round entrance door to the north and a natural slit in the roof parallel with it, running westwards, and duplicated in the floor of the chamber below (Pl. LV, 1). It may have been used as a shaft entrance for the latest burials, and door and shaft were hidden before excavation. The tooling of the chamber is very rough; inside were four undisturbed graves.

Graves 1, 2, and 3 were roughly of the same type, shallow and orientated east and west, with the heads facing east. No. 1 was a rounded narrow grave with shoulder pieces, 0.60 m. deep, filled to the brim with river gravel to a depth of 0.50 m., and then sand. The grave is so narrow that the corpse must have been forced into it, and it contained nothing but the skull and fragments of bone which had never been disturbed.

No. 2 was of the same form, slightly wider than No. 1, and held more bones and a piece of lime concrete which seemed to have been brought in with the sand. No. 3 had the same filling as No. 2, but there is a ledge for slabs or *balats* at a depth of 0.40 m. The skeleton was complete, lying flat on its back with the hands resting on the thighs, and from the hips down was slightly inclined to the left and a tight fit in the grave. It was so brittle that it disappeared when touched. The filling of sand had leaked through the floor, where the ants' nest seen from below was lodging in the grave.

The threshold grave, No. 4, was much wider, 0.90 m. deep and square ended. Over it were cover stones of red sandstone sealed with lime, and through the long slit in the floor half the contents had escaped. The filling was of sand without gravel, and at the end showed a stratification in section with bones sticking out of it. Half-way down were parts of two skeletons side by side, the missing bones having disappeared through the slit. The

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tomb had been used as a charnel house, for beneath the top burials, which were orderly, were seven skulls and a mass of bones piled up in confusion.

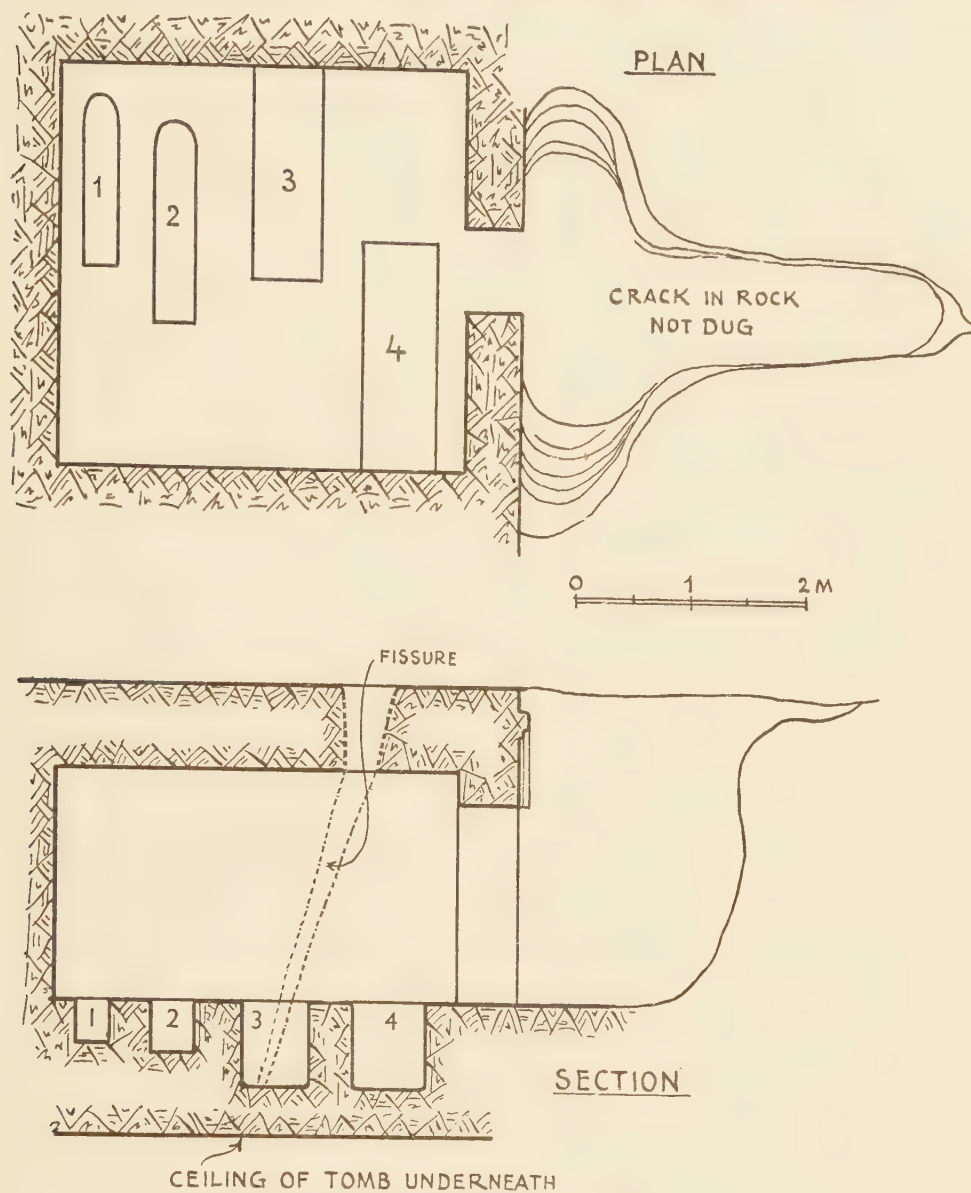


FIG. 9. North Tomb, el Habis.

Nothing was found at floor-level or in the graves; but pots 29.782 and 36.809, of the first century B.C.—A.D., and a piece of painted bowl (29.901), rougher than the usual fabric, were leaning against the south wall on the sand,

a metre above floor-level, and must be later than the original graves. Another sherd of painted ware (29.681) was found while clearing out the entrance.

Wādi Mu'eisra esh Sharqiye.

*Cave No. 1.*¹ With Stratum I, 2 or II, 1. (Pl. XLIX, 2 and Fig. 10.)

At the south-east end of the upper tier of chambers above the east bank of the Wādi Mu'eisra esh Sharqiye is a chamber cut into the top of the cliff (Pl. XLIX, 1), its roof formed by a terrace leading to the large five-roomed house (*QDAP*, VII, Pl. XLV). It was silted nearly to the top with sand and stones, which before excavation showed the jamb and rebate of a doorway and part of the roof. When cleared the floor sloped in the direction of the door, and was slightly lower than the forecourt outside, cut into the sloping rock of the wādi bank. This must have been quarried away before the work of hollowing out the chamber above could begin. The deep chases in the floor of the court (cuts made to drive wedges into for quarrying) prove that the stones were removed with care as building material.

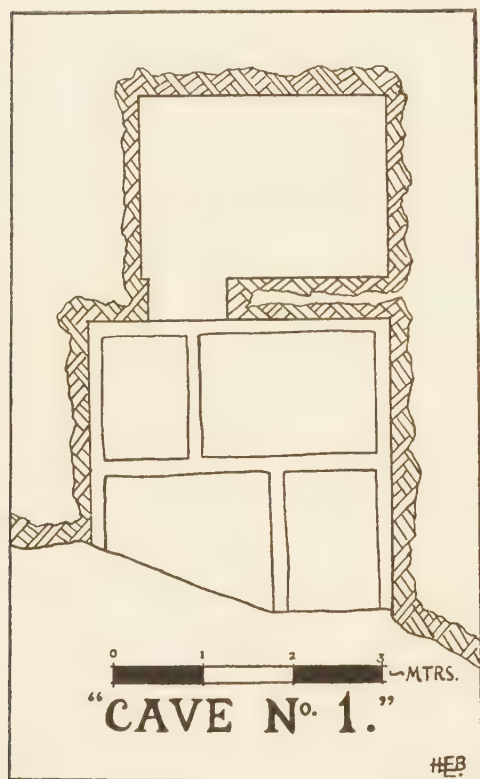


FIG. 10.

There were no signs of a grave or bones in the inner chamber, but at floor-level, on the right, two complete Nabataean pots of good, hard, first century B.C.–A.D. ware were found (29.894–5), homogeneous in size and fabric.

It is possible that this 'cave' originally formed part of a house connected with a built-up story at terrace level, since rough stones lie about on the roof which could have belonged to a wall.

*Cave No. 2.*² With Stratum I, 2 or II, 1. (Pl. L and Fig. 11.)

'Cave no. 2' is situated below 'Cave no. 1' about 3 m. above the wādi bed. Before excavation part of the decayed roof and back wall of a rock-cut

¹ For position see 'C 1' on Fig. 3, and *QDAP*, VII, Pl. X, no 20.

² For position see 'C 2' on Fig. 3.

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chamber could be distinguished, the roof showing about 1.40 m. above the drift-sand inside, which sloped to the river's edge. Some of the fallen roof fragments lay half buried.

Like 'Cave no. 1' it consisted of a chamber facing north-west and a forecourt, cut out of the rock and flattened. Perhaps when the front wall had decayed the sill and door-jambs of carefully dressed blocks were inserted into the red sandstone; their faces scored in Nabataean fashion at an angle of 45° , leaving a margin of 0.15 m. In front of the door the rock projects 0.22 m. on each side, which indicates the earlier rock-cut façade. Part of a moulded architrave, very rough and worn, was found near by.

The chamber within is deeper than the court, with steps down into it. The larger niche contained one burial with a stone at the feet and ten small metal bells, probably from camel trappings (29.934). The other recess held a variety of bones, including four jaw-bones on the top. But an underlying skeleton

seemed carefully placed, with a long-necked ridged *unguentarium* of the first century B.C.—A.D. between its knees (36.808).

A shaft grave on the right side against the wall was covered at its upper end by two slabs of scaly sandstone, the lower end being open, and under the slabs the neck and part of the body of a large pot were found with remains of bones in the sand filling the hole completely.

In the court outside, 0.50 m. below the surface, was a kitchen midden of rubbish, and below it almost at rock-level the head of a figurine, with a high coiffure, in unwashed local pink clay (29.933).

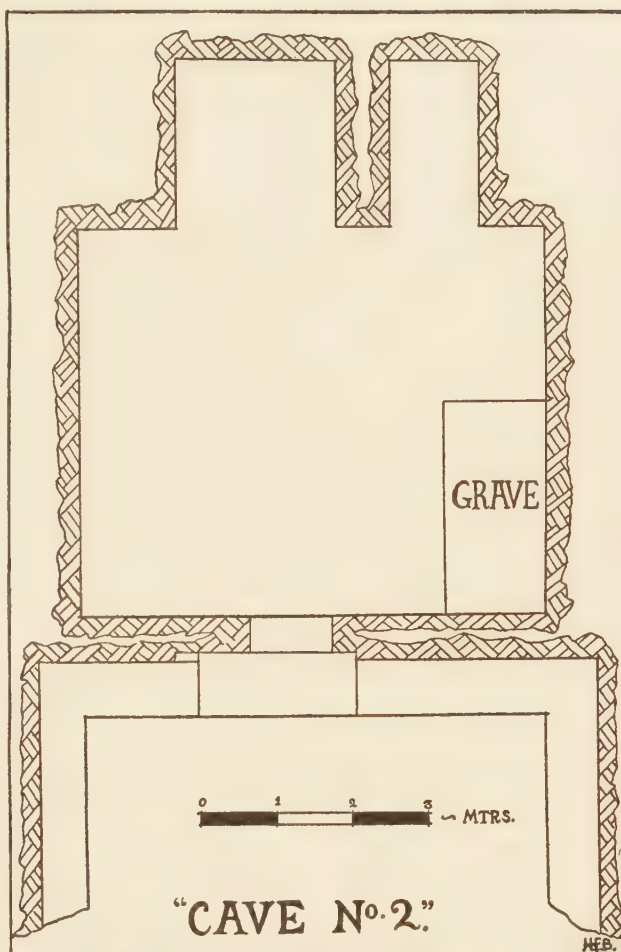


FIG. 11.

*Cave No. 3.*¹ With Stratum I, 2 and II, 1. (Pl. XLIX, 1 and Fig. 12.)

'Cave no. 3' lies immediately to the left of 'Cave no. 2', on the same level. A small quantity of Nabataean sherds were found in the court outside, but

only drift-sand within. A chase, with a round end about 0.80 m. long, is cut in the rear wall of the chamber to the right of the recess, starting from the side wall. Near by was found a fragment of a stone slab, with a rounded edge, the same size as the chase, which seems to have formed part of a bench running along the side wall. There is no evidence of any burials in the chamber.

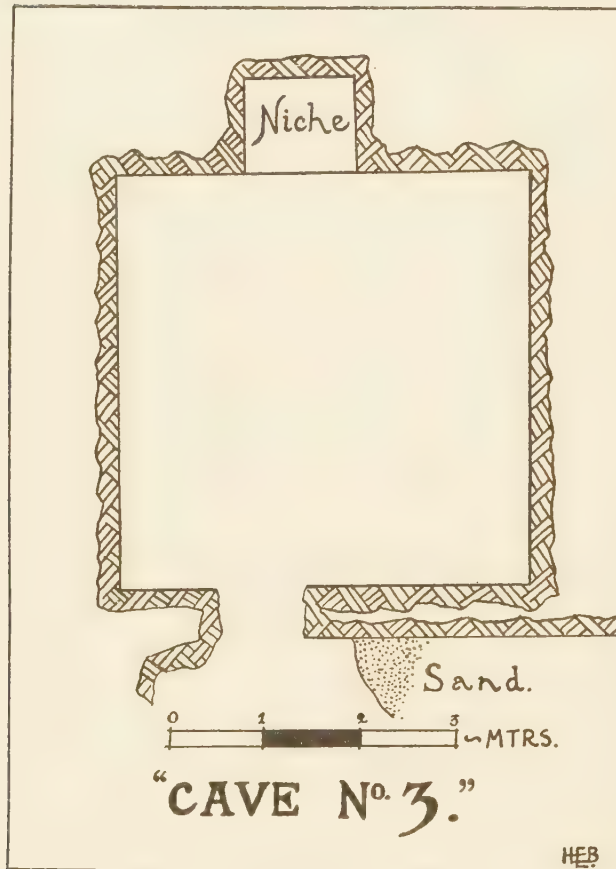


FIG. 12.

Tomb of the Triple Dushara. With Stratum I, 2 and II, 1. (Fig. 13, Pls. LIII, 1; LVI; and Fig. 3.)

The central chamber 'D 4', in the cone-shaped outcrop of red sandstone on Upper Junction Terrace, el Mu'eišra Ridge, gives the name of 'Triple Dushara' to the whole complex. It faces south-east and is entered from a forecourt with a niche

in the left wall. The front was once shut off from the court by a built wall and has in the centre a projecting step in the rock. The walls of the chamber are finely tooled at an angle of 45° and finished under the ceiling with a border of horizontal lines like the 'Painted House' triclinium in Sīq el Bārid (*QDAP*, VII, Pl. XLIX, 2). Holes in the wall show its later use for tethering animals.

Three Dushara niches are cut into the rear wall above the ends of the three parallel graves on the left, like headstones, at whose upper corners outside are holes for some lost ornament or frame, whilst below, between the niches,

¹ For position see 'C 3' on Fig. 3.

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are small round-topped holes for lamps. On removal of the usual carpet of manure, all seven graves were still in part covered with blocks of red sandstone level with the floor, set in lime and resting on the sand with which the shafts had been filled, since there were no rebates in the wall to take them.

The earlier and most important burials would naturally have been made in graves Nos. 2, 3, and 4, orientated to the betyl of Dushara. No. 2 was square and two corner stones had been shifted from the wall end; at the other end

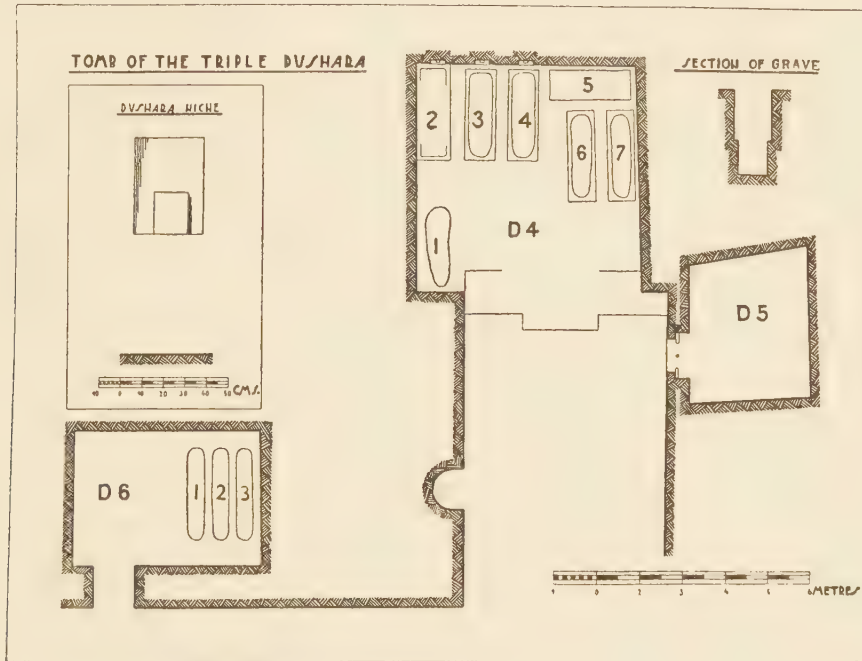


FIG. 13.

was a large squared oblong stone under the *balats* and a piece of a Beduin pot. In the left corner near the surface lay the crania of three children, one above another, in a bed of wood ash and charcoal fragments; but the bones showed no sign of burning and are probably of recent date. The burnt ashes extended to a depth of 0.70 m. to the lower and undisturbed covering stones. The grave beneath was full of red sand; and on removing this slowly and with extreme care, centimetre by centimetre, a layer of white quicklime appeared down the centre of the grave, roughly the shape of a human figure in outline, entirely covered and surrounded on all sides by sand. When broken into this disclosed a layer of black dust, about 0.10 m. thick, extending its whole length and beneath was another layer of lime. The corpse above the sand was perfectly calcined with the exception of one fragment of the patella. No

objects were buried with it. Samples of the ashes and lime were preserved (29.810, 810a).

Grave No. 3 was filled for 1.50 m. with lime concrete above the lower covering stones, all *in situ*, lying on a ledge over the rounded grave. The same careful removal of the red sand brought to light the same layer of quicklime above a black calcined substance, not very thick and shapeless. In it were fragments of bone, friable and dry, and beneath the black layer more white lime and then the red sand. In this case the calcination was not as perfect as in grave No. 4, but the method employed was the same in all the five deep graves, Nos. 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7. Above the covering stones in No 4 were flat shapeless slabs of lime concrete, 0.40 m. thick, in layers. Nos. 4, 6, and 7 were excavated first in non-comprehension of this method of burial, apparently unique in antiquity and employed in modern English practice for disposing of the corpses of condemned felons. Only red sand, ashes, lime, and a few bones were noted in them. The wall behind No. 7 had a chase for the *balats*. Nos. 1 and 5 were shallow graves, 0.35 m. and 0.60 m. deep respectively, the latter containing the body of a woman and child, lying towards the rear wall and divided by stones set on edge, whilst the former was roughly shaped like a modern coffin with shoulder pieces and empty.

Inside the chamber on the surface was a coin of Aretas IV (9 B.C. to A.D. 40) (29.863) and another of the third century, probably Elagabalus (29.862).

The chamber on the left with three graves, 'D 6' also orientated to Dushara betyls, is roughly tooled and lower, being only 1.90 m. high. The graves are shallower, divided by walls 0.15 m. thick and poorly cut. Their depth is 0.55 m., narrower at the feet than the shoulders, and inside were disturbed bones with no signs of calcination and no remains of a black layer. At the bottom of each grave were small characteristic Nabataean sherds of Stratum I, 2 and II, 1 ware; in No. 1 a piece of cooking pot; in No. 2 a fragment of typical painted pottery plate; in No. 3 a piece of painted saucer rim, very fine, with raised edge and nicks; a bit of a plain Nabataean saucer, fragments of a small base, a bit of cooking pot, and a sherd very roughly painted.

The empty room on the right, 'D 5', is well tooled like the central chamber, and the rock-cut jambs of the doorway have sockets for the woodwork frame of a door in two leaves, which bolted in the middle of the threshold.

It is obvious that these unique burials must have been Nabataean, and the coin, sherds, and wall tooling suggest a date in the first century A.D. The biblical curse on Moab because 'he burnt the bones of the King of Edom into lime' (Amos ii. 1), comes into mind.

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The late A. H. Sayce in a letter expressed the opinion that there was a connexion between this text and the lime cremations in 'Triple Dushara'. He thought they proved the Edomite use of lime for burial, and the corruption of the text of Amos, since the curse should fall on Edom rather than on Moab. The Nabataeans must have married Edomite wives and continued Edomite traditions to some extent. Edomite Iron Age pottery influenced Nabataean

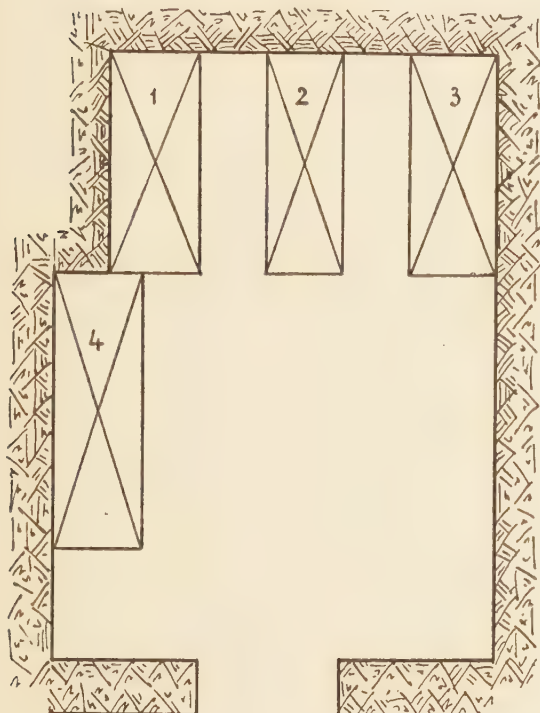


FIG. 14. 'D 3'.

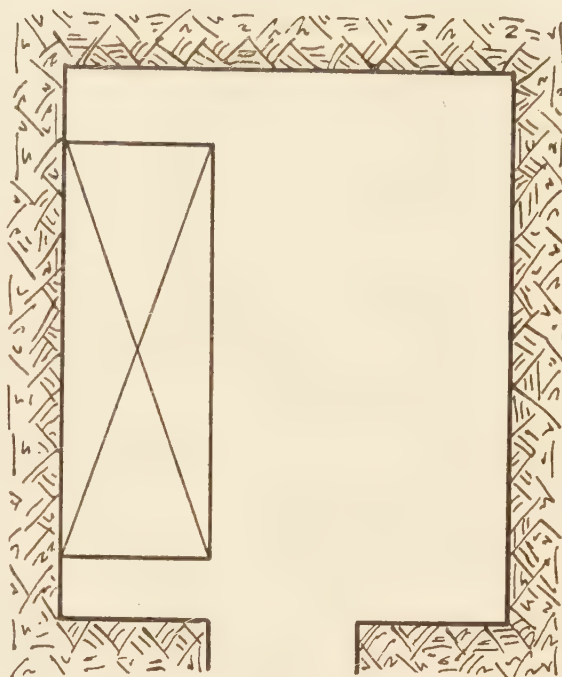


FIG. 15. 'D 1'.

coarse ware, and it is tempting to imagine an ancient Edomite custom lingering for six centuries at Petra for the cremation of priests of the Arabian cult of Dushara. The persons buried in quicklime were not common folk, as in no other spot in Petra have graves yet been found orientated in this manner.

Triple Dushara Complex. (Pl. LIII, 2.)

Above the tomb of the 'Triple Dushara' three much weathered pylon tombs, 'D 1' (*Br.* 547), 'D 2' (*Br.* 548), and 'D 3' (*Br.* 549), open on to a small platform (Pl. LIII, 2 and Figs. 14 and 15). The façade of 'D 3' has remains of two rows of crenellations and is the only tomb of the kind in which any

pottery is known to have been found. The three loculi at the back yielded nothing, but from the grave in the floor, which may be an intrusion, came the miniature of a loving cup, intact (29.765), a plain fragment of white marble, and an Arab shoe-shaped medieval lamp. The façade of 'D 2' next to it has almost weathered away but shows the remains of a bull-nosed string. The

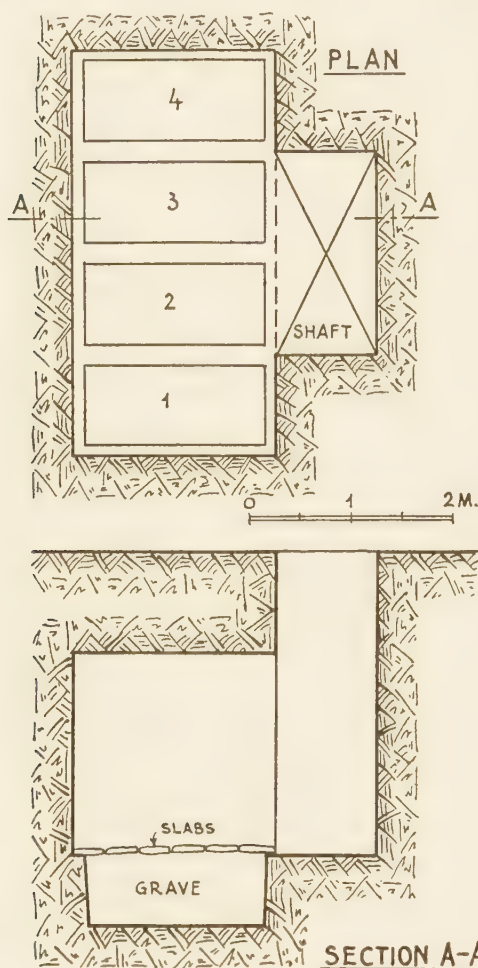


FIG. 16. 'E 1'.

dug, and at the shaft end appeared a juglet (29.759); a bottle with a long neck (29.758) lay by the knees, and on the chest was a dish, broken when the covering slab caved in. In the grave were two crania, one in the top left-hand corner and another in the middle of the right. All the bones looked as though the bodies had been dissected before burial.

Grave No. 1 contained a vase (29.760), a juglet (29.757), and a few frag-

the chamber is 4 m. square with a sinking in the floor and had nothing inside. 'D 1' is still further disintegrated with a chamber 3 m. $\times$ 4 m., in which is a large, deep, empty grave in the floor, wider at the top than at the bottom.

Br. 544-6 and all the shaft graves on the terrace surrounding the complex were explored, but all had been previously rifled (see Dalman, *Neue Petra Forschungen*, Fig. 22, for plan). Above one of these is a symbol of Dushara carved in the rock outcrop.

Upper Junction Terrace, Mu'eisra Ridge.

Tomb E 1. With Stratum I, 2 and II, 1. (Pl. LI, 7, Fig. 16.)

This shaft tomb with four graves lies to the south-west of the tomb of the 'Triple Dushara'. The shaft, filled to the brim with sand, contained two lamps (29.761 and 29.762) and three small pots of Stratum II, 1 ware (29.766, 29.767, and 29.768).

The divisions between the graves were much deteriorated and three of the covering slabs of scaly sandstone had broken and fallen in. No. 4 was first

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ments. No. 2 had the covering slab intact, but fallen in at the end, with only sherds and bones inside. No. 3 was the same. The pottery in the graves as well as from the shaft is fine hard ware, grey and red, of the first century A.D.

Tomb E 2. With Stratum I, 2 and II, 1. (Pl. LI, 9, and Fig. 17.)

This shaft tomb is 11.00 m. in front of the tomb of the 'Triple Dushara' and, with the exception of a recess at each end, has the same plan as 'E 1' and 'F 2'. Discus lamps, small bowls like those from 'B 1', and some fragments of painted pottery turned up during the clearing. The shaft and tomb chamber were full of sand to the roof, and all four graves retained their covering *balats* which had slipped from their places and were broken in the middle, from the pressure of the sand above.

In No. 4 the skeleton was lying at a depth of 0.90 m. on its left side with the knees slightly drawn up, and the head in the left top corner. The stone slab pressed on the chest and right arm, and the bones broke up when touched. The grave was full of intrusive sand and there were odd human bones at the top (from a second burial?), but no objects.

Grave No. 3 contained the skeleton of a mother and child at a depth of 0.40 m., with a fragment of a silver bracelet and one of copper wire. Beneath them was another corpse. Graves 2 and 1 had undisturbed skeletons. In each of the side recesses was a fragmentary moulded horse of very rough workmanship; perhaps the toys of the child in grave 3 (29.763 and 29.764).

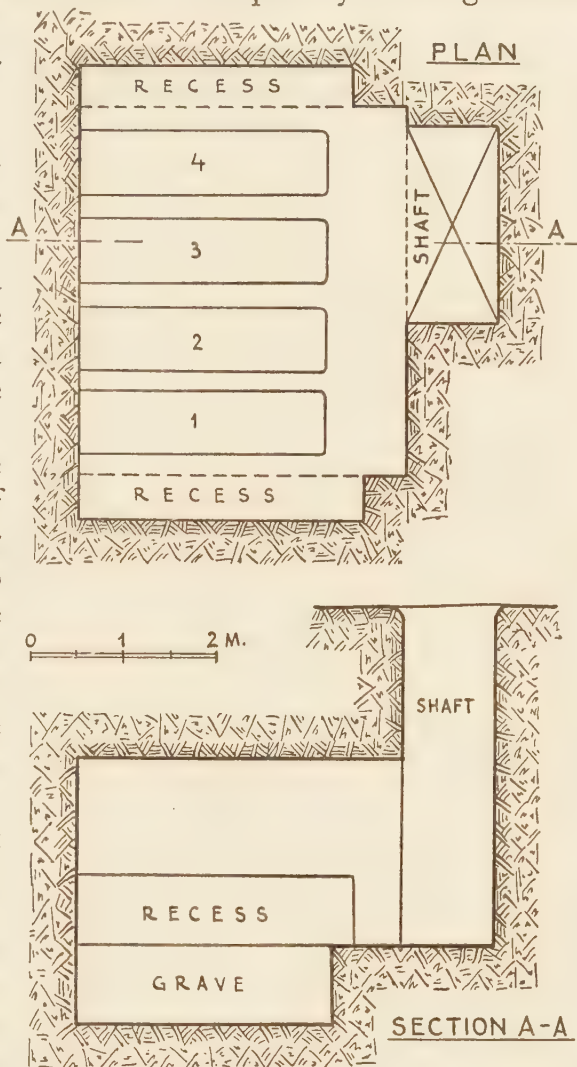


FIG. 17. 'E 2'.

Tomb E 3. With Stratum III. (Pl. LI, 10 and Fig. 18.)

This tomb of Persian-Hellenistic type like 'B 2' (Fig. 8), dating from about

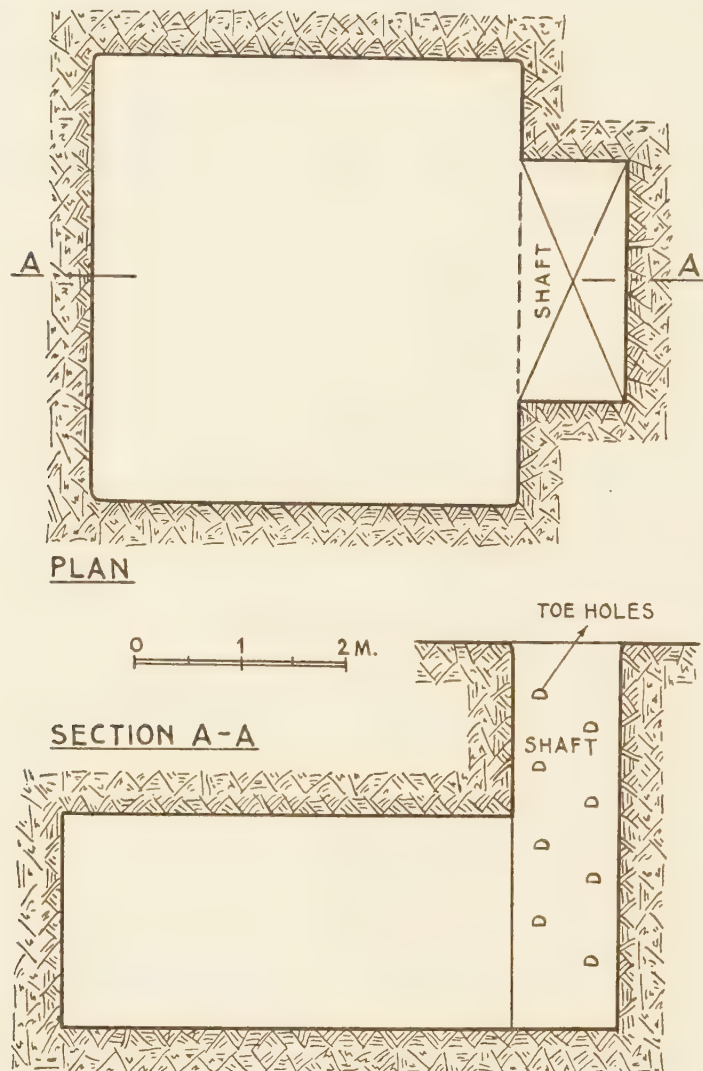


FIG. 18. 'E 3'.

150 B.C. and containing complete pots paralleled in Stratum III, was sunk in the flat rock fifteen paces from 'E 2' and beyond another empty shaft opened with no result. The outline of the shaft could be seen from the surface and was filled with stones, sand, a few bones, and sherds. In its right side staggered toe-holes led down to a tomb chamber silted nearly to the top with drift-sand.

SELA-PETRA, THE ROCK, OF EDOM AND NABATENE

As the clearance of the shaft began to expose the chamber, which like all the others was not protected from the shaft, a mass of sherds and burnt bones, human and animal, appeared from the side. When the sand had been removed, handful by handful to the depth of a metre, a firm, hard, sandy surface was reached on which in the centre, eight skulls, bones, and three complete pots were lying in confusion. Two skulls stuck up out of the sand; one was inverted and two lay on their sides. Two of these pots had held food (29.778 and 29.775), and were blackened with fire. Some of the skulls were clean, white, and friable, arranged side by side with others in disorder; and the bones near the skulls were too decomposed to be moved and too few to form corresponding skeletons. With them was a hanging bronze oil bottle (29.786), a bracelet (29.785), a finger-ring (29.787), a Hellenistic lamp (29.783), and a small piece of bronze with bone and charcoal adhering to it.

In the sand immediately below were the rest of the pots (29.776-7 and 29.779-81) among masses of bones blackened with fire, and one broken skull, white underneath and blackened on top. These were lying on a thin black layer in which were charred bones, 0.50 m. above the floor, with no sign of lime.

Part of a cranium lay on the top of a pile of larger bones, some of which looked as though they had been arranged when dry. Near the rear wall on the left was another blackened patch and under it a number of white leg-bones. When all the bones in the chamber had been collected there were six baskets full, among them a charred dog's head. At least nine human corpses and one dog seemed to have been burnt outside and the bones placed in the tomb chamber together with a few bronze treasures and the common pots that usually accompanied the Nabataean dead. Perhaps this burning of corpses, poorly carried out, was the predecessor of the efficient lime cremations of the first century A.D. in the tomb of the 'Triple Dushara'.

Middle Junction Terrace, Mu'eisra Ridge.

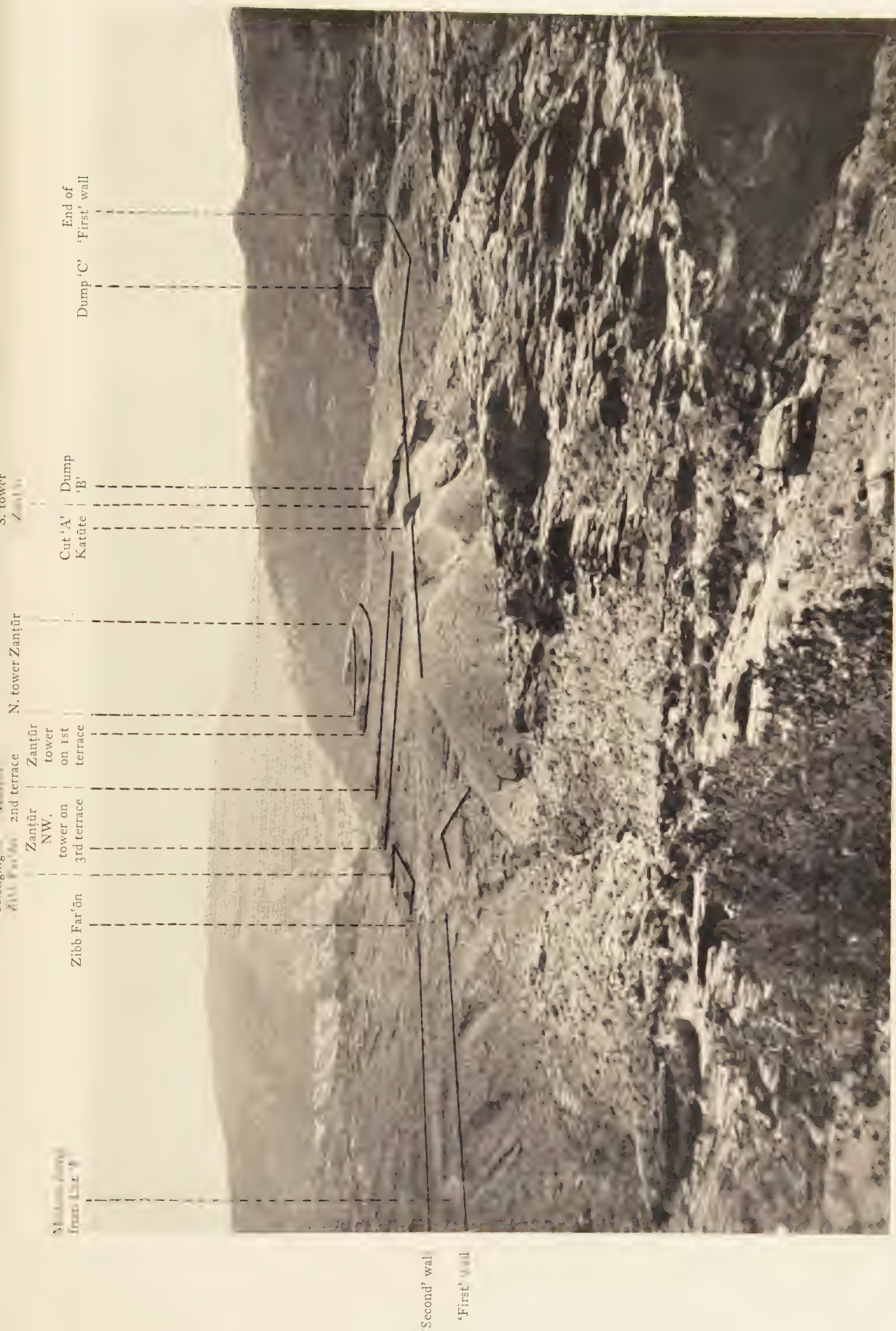
Tomb E 4. With Stratum III. (Pl. LI, 8.)

This shaft tomb with one grave lies south-west of the tomb of the 'Triple Dushara' on the plateau below. At a depth of 2 m. the shaft was full of miscellaneous bones in disorder, some, particularly the skull fragments, showing signs of burning. The grave was very roughly cut with a south-east orientation.

In it was a round vase (29.771), almost a duplicate of (29.778) from tomb 'E 3', and a fragment of a shallow stone vessel on feet. 'E 3' and 'E 4' are the only tombs yet found at Petra containing pottery paralleled in Stratum III.

G. and A. HORSFIELD.

[*To be continued.*]



SITE OF SOUTH WALLS OF THE CITY, SHOWING RUBBISH DUMPS AND RIDGE CROWNED BY FORTRESS OF ZANTÜR
PETRA

Cut 'F'



CUT 'F' BETWEEN THE SECOND WALL AND THE WALL OF A NABATAEAN HOUSE ON A COURT, IN FRONT OF WHICH, BUT NOT IN THE PLATE, RUNS THE FIRST TOWN WALL (See Fig. 1, p. 88 and *QDAP*, VII, pl. XVII, 1.)

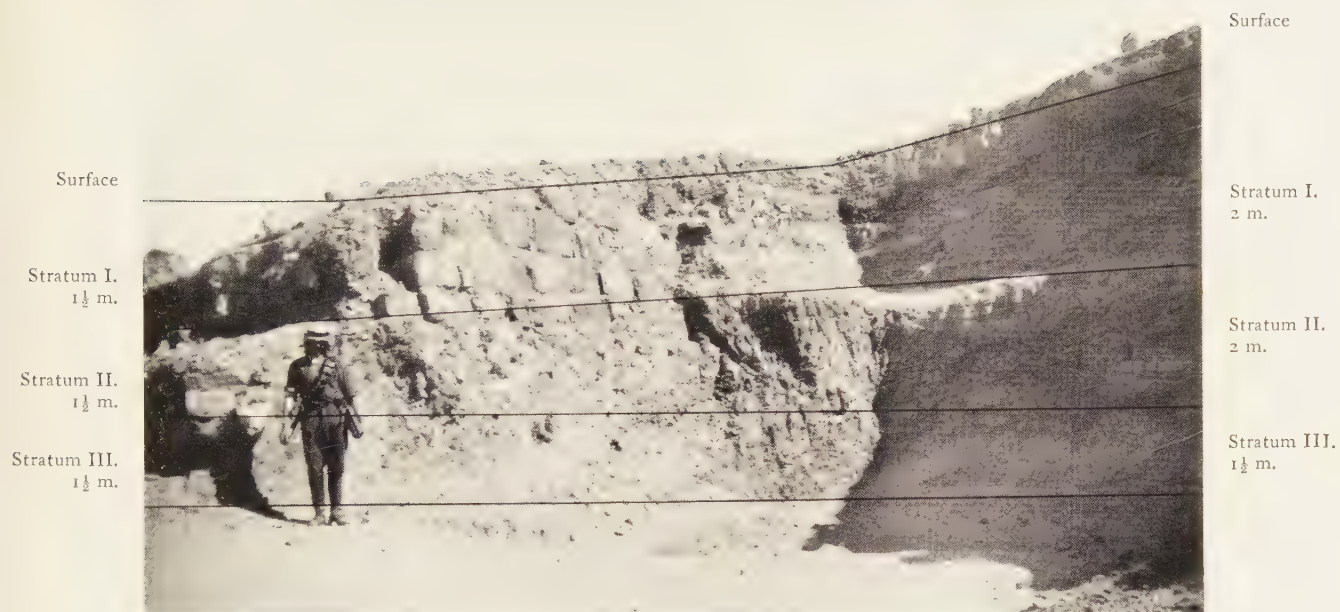
PETRA



CUT A. EL KATŪTE (COMPLETED)
SHOWING THREE LEVELS

SOUTH TOWER OF EZ ZANTŪR BEHIND THE
ROCK OUTCROP

PETRA



1. WEST SIDE OF CUT 'A' SHOWING BASTION AND ROCK-SCARP



2. 'FIRST' SOUTHERN WALL RUNNING EAST FROM ZANTÛR TO THE THEATRE RIDGE. DUMPS 'B' AND 'C' IN BACKGROUND

PETRA



1. BACK WALL OF TOMB OF THE URN REMODELLED AS A CHURCH IN A.D. 447



2. BACK WALL OF TOMB OF SEXTUS FLORENTINUS, SHOWING THE CENTRAL BURIAL NICHE BEFORE CLEARANCE SURMOUNTED BY AN ENTABLATURE WITH TWO WEATHERED ARCHES

Tomb A 1

Tomb A 1 →



1. TOMB A 1 AND SHAFT GRAVES A 2 AND A 3 TAKEN BELOW THE CIRCULAR TRICLINIUM
(*QDAP*, VII, PL. LXV) OVERLOOKING THE SIYĀGH



2. TOMB A 1
PETRA

Cave 1



Cave 3

1. CAVES 1-3

Cave 2



2. CAVE 1

PETRA



CAVE 2

PETRA

Jibāl el Mu'eisrāt

Wādī
Mu'eisra
el Gharbiye



1. *Br. & Dom.*, no. 547. Triple Dushara Complex. Tomb 'D 1'.
2. " no. 548. " " " Tomb 'D 2'.
3. " no. 549. " " " Tomb 'D 3'.
4. " no. 550. Tomb of the Triple Dushara. 'D 4'.
5. Triple Dushara Complex. Tomb 'D 5'.
6. " " " Tomb 'D 6'.
7. Tomb 'E 1'.
8. Tomb 'E 4'.
9. Tomb 'E 2'.
10. Tomb 'E 3'.

PHOTO-DIAGRAM OF MU'EİŞRA RIDGE TOMBS ON UPPER JUNCTION TERRACE AND
(See T. Canaan, 'Studies in the Topography and Folklore of Petra')
MIDDLE JUNCTION

Jibāl el Mu'eişra esh Sharqiye (Wādi Ḥamret el Hişeh,
in the cleft behind nos. 16, 17, 18, separates Jibāl el
Mu'eişra esh Sharqiye from Jibāl Ḥamret el Hişeh).

Hamret el Hişeh



Umm Scihūn



Wādi el
Mu'eişra esh
Sharqiye

11. *Br. & Dom.*, no. 524.

12. „ no. 531.

13. „ no. 533.

14. „ no. 537.

15. Five-roomed house overlooking the Wādi el Mu'eişra esh Sharqiye.

16. Two-storied house „ „ „ „ *QDAP*, VII, Pl. LII.

17. Dushara symbol with crescent moons.

18. Site of House. (*Br. & Dom.*, no. 623.)

19. *Br. & Dom.*, no. 616.

20. 'Cave 1' Tomb.

EAS BETWEEN WĀDIS EL MU'EIŞRA ESH SHARQIYE AND WĀDI ḤAMRET EL HIŞEH
(the *Palestine Oriental Society*, IX, 1930, Sketch-map and p. 28)

E IN FOREGROUND



'B' TOMBS IN FOREGROUND, EXCAVATED SHAFT GRAVES 'S' IN BACKGROUND (See Fig. 3)

PETRA

D 1

D 2



D 6

D 4

D 5

1. THE 'TRIPLE DUSHARA' COMPLEX



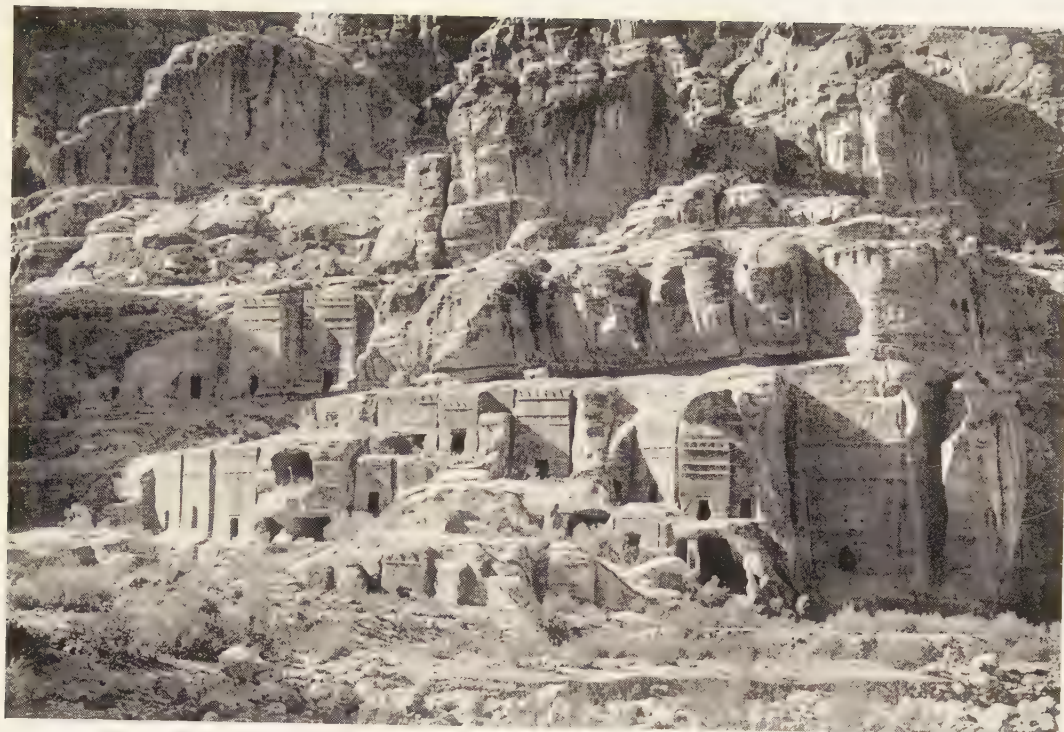
D 1

D 2

D 3

2. PYLON TOMBS ABOVE 'TRIPLE DUSHARA'

PETRA



1. PYLON TOMB COMPLEX SOUTH OF THEATRE



2. QUARRIED PYLON TOMB COMPLEX SOUTH OF EL ḤABĪS (TAKEN FROM *BR. & DOM.* 381)
UNDER EL BIYĀRA, CONTAINING THE SOUTH AND SOUTH-WEST GROUPS OF SHAFT GRAVES
(See *Br. & Dom.* Pl. XI, p. 296 and Fig. 328)

PETRA



1. NORTH TOMB, EL ḤABĪS, TAKEN FROM ABOVE, FACING EL BIYĀRA



2. INTERIOR OF TOMB (*Br.* 256)

PETRA



TOMB OF THE TRIPLE DUSHARA

PETRA

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